



County of Yolo

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 24, 2005

Robert Schneider, Chairman
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova CA 95670

SUBJECT: Cache Creek, Bear Creek, and Harley Gulch TMDL for Mercury

Dear Chairman Schneider:

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors (Board) would like to express concern regarding the development of the Cache Creek, Bear Creek, and Harley Gulch Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for mercury. We would also like to express our appreciation for your staff's openness and accessibility as County staff and other stakeholders sort through the complex issues associated with methylmercury production in Cache Creek.

The County shares a desire with the RWQCB to reduce the risk to human health and wildlife caused by the accumulation of methylmercury in fish tissue. At this time, however, we are concerned that the implementation measures that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff may propose as part of the TMDL will negatively affect the County's and the Cache Creek Conservancy's wildlife habitat restoration activities that are consistent with the Cache Creek Area Plan (CCAP). The County also is concerned that the measures will affect road, infrastructure, and campground maintenance activities, as well as the approved operations of gravel companies that include reclamation efforts approved under the CCAP. The County is also concerned that proposed implementation measures will not demonstrably reduce the production of methylmercury in Cache Creek as intended. Finally, the County is concerned about the high cost of potential monitoring requirements.

The Board understands that the language is still undergoing review and that RWQCB staff are working with County staff and other stakeholders to receive feedback on initial proposals. The County will continue to participate actively in those public processes, but wanted to let you know that we are concerned about the impact that these measures will have on activities in the County that benefit the environment and the economy. We are not yet fully convinced that the intended benefits of these implementation measures will outweigh the costs and impacts to reclamation efforts being administered under the CCAP for the enhancement of this great natural resource.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Helen Thomson

Chairwoman, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Patrick Morris
✓ Janis Cooke

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